

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 18, 19, 22, 24 and 26 are cancelled hereby. Claims 10-16, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 remain pending herein.

The Applicants acknowledge the indication in the March 16, 2004 Office Action that claims 10-16, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 (i.e., all of the claims which remain pending after entry of the present Amendment) are allowed.


In view of the above, it is submitted that entry of the above Amendment would be proper under 37 CFR 1.116 since the Amendment deletes all of the claims under rejection and will result in allowance of the present application. Accordingly, entry of the above Amendment is respectfully requested.

The cancellation of claims 2, 3, 5-8, 18, 19, 22, 24 and 26 renders the rejections and the provisional rejection set forth in the March 16, 2004 Office Action moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw these rejections and the provisional rejection.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 13, 2004

Date

KCB/mtk

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